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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 585
By McKee

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Mayor Margaret Mahery of Athens upon her receipt of the Tennessee Municipal League's Mayor of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to pay tribute to those exemplary public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Margaret Mahery of Athens is most assuredly one such estimable citizen who is deserving of special recognition; and

WHEREAS, She was named Tennessee Mayor of the Year on June 12, 2001 at the Tennessee Municipal League's 62nd annual conference; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Margaret Mahery's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, During her progressive tenure as Mayor of Athens, she has been a part of many notable initiatives, including obtaining funding for stormwater drainage improvements,

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overseeing the groundbreaking of the Southeast Tennessee Trade and Conference Center, and initiating and completing a countywide master recreation plan; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Mahery has also focused her energies on increasing citizen involvement in government; she has scheduled walks with city staff in the downtown Athens business district to meet and greet the public, reorganized the council advisory committee, and founded "Council's Night Out," informal sessions to hear and address citizens' concerns; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected leader in her community, Mayor Margaret Mahery has served as the first female President of the Athens Optimist Club, the first female Council Member of the City of Athens, the first female Mayor of Athens, and the first female President of the Tennessee Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her commendable service as Mayor, she serves with distinction as Director of the Tennessee Technology Center at Athens, where she taught for thirteen years before becoming Director in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Margaret Mahery contributes her time and remarkable talents to many worthy organizations, including meritorious service as a member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities and as a member of the Boards of the TML Risk Management Pool, the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, the Tennessee Municipal League, and the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Municipal League President Jerry Sharber has said, "Mayor Mahery embodies the spirit and foresight of quality Tennessee governance, and well represents the excellence found in so many Tennessee mayors"; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Margaret Mahery has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community and State; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Margaret Mahery is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, It is the privilege of this legislative body to honor Mayor Mahery for her uncommon devotion and service to the citizens of Athens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby congratulate Mayor Margaret Mahery upon her receipt of the 2001 Tennessee Municipal League's Mayor of the Year Award, commend her meritorious service to her community, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.